

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

POWYS

**CAEAU TROED-RHIW-DRAIN
(TROED-RHIW-DRAIN MEADOWS)**

Date of Notification: 1980, 1985

National Grid Reference: SN 898670 and SN 901674

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 147
1:25,000 Sheet number: SN 86 and SN 96

Site Area: 13.1 ha

Description:

These fields are outstanding examples of upland herb-rich hay meadows in which a number of rare plant species are well represented.

The meadows are variants of a characteristic mid Wales type of grassland in which the nationally rare wood bitter-vetch *Vicia orobus* and bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* are abundant. Other characteristic species which occur frequently are yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis* and eyebright *Euphrasia* agg. The uncommon greater butterfly-orchid *Platanthera chlorantha* and fragrant orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* occur in both the northern and southern parts of the site.

The southern-most area is subdivided by wet areas and includes relatively uniform areas of a drier type of bent-fescue *Agrostis-Festuca* grassland with sweet vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and an abundance of herb species. Wet banks and streamsides dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* show affinities with wet heath vegetation and have an abundance of heath spotted-orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*. Boggy areas here and in the northern area support both butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. The northern area comprises a more variable, but generally more productive sward of bent-fescue grassland, although the part adjacent to the reservoir is generally wetter with more purple moor-grass. Dry banks and rock outcrops also occur. Wetter areas are reflected by a good representation of meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* and the locally uncommon sawwort *Serratula tinctoria*. The uncommon globeflower *Trollius europaeus* occurs in one area and fragrant orchid is present in some numbers.

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